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Classified by: UNSPECIFIED
 Reason: UNSPECIFIED
 Declassify on: X1

(S//OC/NF) SUBJ: [] THE POSSIBILITY OF A (b)(1)
 U.S. MILITARY STRIKE AND ON THE UN OIL-FOR-FOOD SALES PROGRAM (b)(3)

Central Intelligence Agency

28 January 1998

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(S//OC/NF) ----- CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY INFORMATION REPORT, NOT
 FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE -----

(U) CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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SOURCE A []

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CONTEXT A []

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(S//OC/NF) 1. []

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[] IRAQI PRESIDENT
 ((SADDAM)) HUSAYN WILL BACK DOWN AT THE ELEVENTH HOUR IF FACED WITH THE REALITY OF A
 MILITARY STRIKE BY THE UNITED STATES. [] EVERY TIME THE U.S. (b)(1)
 GOVERNMENT GOES THE EXTRA MILE DIPLOMATICALLY REGARDING THE UN SPECIAL COMMISSION (b)(3)
 (UNSCOM) INSPECTION TEAMS OR OTHER ISSUES RELATED TO THE UN SANCTIONS, SADDAM IS
 ONLY TOO HAPPY TO TAKE THE EXTRA MILE.

(S//OC/NF) 2. [] SADDAM DOES NOT MIND "PIN PRICK" MILITARY STRIKES OR (b)(1)
 ACTIONS, RATHER HE LIKES THEM BECAUSE SADDAM HAS THE ILLUSION THAT IF IRAQ IS ATTACKED (b)(3)
 THE ACTION WOULD GARNER ARAB SUPPORT AND ENTHRONE HIM AS THE LEADER OF THE ARAB
 WORLD. HOWEVER, [] SADDAM DOES NOT WANT TO ENDURE (b)(1)
 SUSTAINED, STRATEGIC BOMBING LIKE HE SAW IN JANUARY 1991. AT THE TIME OF THE INVASION O (b)(3)
 KUWAIT IN JULY 1990, SADDAM HAD NOT EXPERIENCED SUSTAINED BOMBING AND BELIEVED HE
 WOULD WIN ANY WAR. REALITY HAS SUNK IN AND HE DOES NOT WANT A REPEAT EXPERIENCE.

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(S//OC/NF) 3. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] (b)(1)
 [REDACTED] SADDAM TAKES ADVANTAGE OF THE EXTRA DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS TO (b)(3)
 RESOLVE THE STANDOFF. [REDACTED] HOWEVER, THE EXTENSIVE COVERAGE IN THE (b)(1)
 IRAQI PRESS OF THE MISCONDUCT ALLEGATIONS MADE AGAINST THE U.S. PRESIDENT AND (b)(3)
 SUGGESTIONS THE PRESIDENT WILL ORDER A STRIKE AS A DIVERSIONARY MEASURE. [REDACTED] (b)(1)
 [REDACTED] SADDAM VERY LIKELY THINKS THERE WILL BE A STRIKE AS A POLITICAL DIVERSION IF (b)(3)
 NOTHING ELSE.

(S//OC/NF) 4. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] THE U.S. PRESIDENT'S (b)(1)
 COMMENTS ON IRAQ AND THE UN SANCTIONS DURING A TELEVISED INTERVIEW ON 21 JANUARY. (b)(3)
 [REDACTED] WHEN ASKED ABOUT LIFTING SANCTIONS IF IRAQ IS GIVEN A CLEAN BILL (b)(1)
 OF HEALTH, THE U.S. RESPONSE IS USUALLY TIED TO WHETHER OR NOT SADDAM IS STILL IN (b)(3)
 POWER. HOWEVER, THIS TIME THE RESPONSE WAS NOT TOTALLY PREDICATED UPON SADDAM'S
 STATUS, BUT THAT THE QUESTION OF LIFTING SANCTIONS WOULD BE A DIFFICULT ONE FOR THE
 AMERICAN PEOPLE. [REDACTED] (b)(1)
 [REDACTED] IF IT IS (b)(3)
 PERCEIVED THERE IS SOME POSSIBILITY FOR IRAQ TO GET OUT FROM UNDER THE SANCTIONS,
 EVEN AN IRAQ WITH SADDAM, THIS COULD BE USED AS A CARROT TO PURSUADE SADDAM TO
 COMPLIANCE.

(S//OC/NF) 5. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] THE RUSSIANS HAVE BEEN VERY STERN IN THEIR ADVICE THAT (b)(1)
 IRAQ MUST DEVISE A FORMULA PROVIDING THE UNSCOM INSPECTION TEAMS WITH ACCESS TO THE (b)(3)
 PRESIDENTIAL SITES. IF THE RUSSIANS, OR OTHERS, ARE NOT SUCCESSFUL IN THIS EFFORT [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED] THERE WILL BE A BRITISH-U.S. ULTIMATUM DELIVERED TO (b)(1)
 SADDAM. IF THAT HAPPENS [REDACTED] THE UNITED NATIONS WILL HAVE TO PULL (b)(3)
 OUT THE UNSCOM OFFICIALS IN IRAQ, AS WELL AS THE 100 PLUS PEOPLE WHO ARE MONITORING
 THE OIL-FOR-FOOD PROGRAM AND OIL SALES WILL BE SUSPENDED. [REDACTED] (b)(1)
 [REDACTED] IN THIS CLASH (b)(3)
 BETWEEN IRAQ AND THE U.S., THE OIL SALES WILL BE SUSPENDED AS A PUNITIVE MEASURE.

(S//OC/NF) 6. REGARDING THE OIL-FOR-FOOD SALES, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] IRAQ IS NOT (b)(1)
 OFFICIALLY ASKING FOR AN INCREASE IN THE VOLUME OF OIL IT CAN SELL. RATHER, THE (b)(3)
 GOVERNMENT IS INTERESTED IN INCREASING THE STAFFING AND STREAMLINING THE APPROVAL
 PROCESS FOR CONTRACTS FOR HUMANITARIAN SUPPLIES. HOWEVER, IF AN INCREASE IN CRUDE
 VOLUME IS APPROVED, IRAQ WILL TAKE IT. [REDACTED] (b)(1)
 [REDACTED] (b)(3)

[REDACTED]
 [REDACTED] IRAQ'S CURRENT EXPORT CAPACITY IS 1.5 MILLION BARRELS PER DAY.

(S//OC/NF) 7. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] IN PUBLIC STATEMENTS, IRAQI DEPUTY PRIME (b)(1)
 MINISTER TARIQ ((AZIZ)) HAS SAID THAT WHEN THE NEW INSPECTION TEAMS BEGIN THEIR (b)(3)
 TECHNICAL REVIEW OF FILES AND DOCUMENTS IN FEBRUARY, EVERYONE WILL SEE THE PROGRESS
 IRAQ HAS MADE TOWARDS COMPLIANCE WITH WEAPONS DESTRUCTION/DISPOSAL. IN REALITY,
 [REDACTED] AZIZ IS UNDER NO ILLUSION THAT THOSE TECHNICAL REVIEWS WILL BE A (b)(1)
 SUCCESS. [REDACTED] (b)(3)

(S//OC/NF) 8. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] IRAQ'S FOREIGN MINISTER MUHAMMAD SAID (b)(1)
 KAZIM AL-((SAHHAF)) HAD JUST RETURNED TO BAGHDAD FOLLOWING MEETINGS IN TEHRAN. (b)(3)
 [REDACTED] LITTLE PROGRESS WAS MADE IN THE TALKS. A MAJOR STUMBLING (b)(1)
 BLOCK CONTINUES TO BE THE QUESTION OF THE NUMBER OF IRANIAN POWS REMAINING IN IRAQ (b)(3)
 FROM THE IRAN-IRAQ WAR. IRAQ'S POSITION IS THAT THERE IS ONLY ONE, WHILE IRAN INSISTS THE
 NUMBER IS MORE LIKE 5,000.

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(S//OC/NF) 9. [REDACTED] HIKMAT AL-HAJJU, THE IRAQI DIPLOMAT RECENTLY MURDERED IN JORDAN. [REDACTED] HE IS PUZZLED BY THE CASE. ON THE ONE HAND, HIKMAT HAJJU WAS FAIRLY CLOSE TO SADDAM'S FAMILY AND TO THE IRAQI INTELLIGENCE SERVICE. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE ASSASSINATION WAS PERPETRATED IN A SMOOTH AND PROFESSIONAL MANNER, TO INCLUDE THE USE OF THE KNIFE TO SLIT THE DIPLOMAT'S THROAT, SUGGESTING THE SERVICE WAS INDEED INVOLVED.

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